08-29-01 04C0
08/27/01 0800

PTO/SB/21 (08-00)

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box →

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

		Application Number	09932588
		Filing Date	August 17, 2001
		First Named Inventor	Panttaja, James T.
		Group Art Unit	Not Yet Assigned
		Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	018167003800

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	Preliminary Amendment with version with markings to show changes made (3 pages), Return Postcard
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application		Remarks The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees to Deposit Account 20-1430.
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm and Individual name	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP Gregory E. Stanton	Reg No. 45,127
Signature		
Date	August 27, 2001	

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Express Mail Label: EL 769970560 US

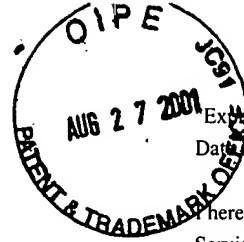
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on this date 08/27/01 and is addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Typed or printed name	Elizabeth Risner
Signature	
	Date August 27, 2001

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

SF 1263350 v1



Express Mail" Label No. **EL 769970560 US**
Date of Deposit **August 27, 2001**

PATENT
018167-003800US

I hereby certify that this is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

By:

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

James T. Pantaja, et al.

Application No.:

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: REDEMPTION SYSTEM FOR
AWARD REDEMPTION

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 29 of page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

--Then, in a step 708, of the available awards with the earliest expiration date and with the earliest earning date, the most encumbered awards are determined. In the above example, the available awards with the earliest expiration date and with the earliest earning date correspond to rows 338 and 340. The awards corresponding to row 338 were earned at business "4" according to promotion "2". Referring now to Fig. 4, row 412 indicates that awards earned at business "4" according to promotion "2" are not accepted by supplier "200". Thus, the awards corresponding to row 338 are encumbered. On the other hand, the awards corresponding to row 340 were earned at